REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 8, 13, 16, 19-21, 31 and 32 have been amended. Claims 4-6, 17, 18, 43 and 44 have been cancelled. Claims 1-3, 7-16, and 19-42 will be pending in the application upon entry of this preliminary amendment.

A marked-up version of the claims is attached hereto, wherein deleted matter has been bracketed and added matter is underlined.

In view of the above amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a notice of the same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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1/8/03
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 7, 8, 13, 16, 19-21, 31 and 32 have been amended as follows:

1. A locking mechanism for controlling engagement between parts movable relative to one another in medical sharp devices, the mechanism comprising: a retainer part for retaining a medical sharp, the retainer part having a [fixed] first formation which is engageable with a second formation located on a body part of a medical sharp device and a connector part which is movable relative to the body part to a position in which the connector part and retainer part are in a mutually engaged configuration, wherein the connector part, during movement to the engaged configuration, is adapted to alter the relative engagement between the first and second formations to enable release of the retainer part from the body part, the retainer part including two flexible legs, each leg having a said first formation located thereon, the connector part being adapted to flex the legs, on engagement with the retainer part, to move the legs towards one another, characterized by the legs being mutually joined at respective distal ends thereof.

7. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim [6] 1 in which the legs form a diamond shape.

8. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim [4] 1 in which each leg has an inner surface and an outer surface, the outer surface being longer than the inner surface.

13. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 12 in which [the] each connector protrusion has a chamfered surface for riding over the annular ledge and an opposing step surface for engagement behind the ledge.

16. A locking mechanism for a medical device comprising a retainer part for retaining medical sharp devices, the retainer part including at least one connector portion thereof adapted

for engagement against a body part of a medical sharp device, and a connector part, the connector part being adapted for movement to engage the connector portion for connection therewith, movement of the connector part once connected to the connector portion causing movement of the retainer part, the connector portion comprising two flexible legs, the connector part being adapted to flex the legs, on engagement with the connector portion, to move the legs towards one another, characterized by the legs being mutually joined at respective distal ends thereof.

19. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim [18] 16 in which the legs are joined together in a diamond shape.

20. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim [17] 16 in which each said leg includes a [lug] formation adapted for engagement with a recess formed in the body part[, the movement of the connector part to engage the leg causing a reduction in the force of engagement between the lug and recess].

21. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim [17] 16 in which the connector part includes a generally cylindrically bore, the bore being adapted to receive each said leg on engagement of the connector part therewith.

31. An assembly as claimed in claim 26 in which the fluid container is formed with an annular internal recess at the axial point at which the neck portion meets the shoulder [portion] thereof, and in which the needle retainer includes at least one [projection] formation adapted to engage with the recess for retaining the needle retainer in position in the fluid container.

32. An assembly as claimed in claim 31 in which the [projection] formation is releasable from the recess for enabling movement of the needle assembly along the fluid [containers] container.